

THE CONNECTION

Digital Edition | November 19, 2020



William Martin & Family

by Mike Broome,
Church Historian

The first two installments of this Racial Justice Action Team church historical series have adhered to the principle of objective writing with no first-person pronouns inserted. This one changes. Because of my most favorable feelings about Reverend William Martin and his family, I ask for your indulgence as I cover this piece from a more personal perspective. Bottom line, Rev. Martin and his family were stalwarts of the survival of Washington Street Methodist Church both during and after the Civil War.

Rev. Martin served Washington Street Church twice, from 1863-64 and from 1867-70. In his first time with the church, Martin worked with the black congregation. A primary effort of his second term involved his effort to rebuild the stately structure that was burned by the Union Army in February of 1865. Following the Civil War, Rev. Martin, even with tenuous health, organized fundraising and legal efforts and traveled extensively to bring in money for the rebuilding of the church. One small part of his canvassing involved the distribution of the following circular in 1866:

*To do good and to communicate forget not, for with such sacrifices
God is well pleased. —Heb. Xiii: 16.*

*Will you enclose One Dollar in the accompanying envelope, to aid
in rebuilding the Burnt Methodist Church at Washington Street,
Columbia, S.C.?*

WM. MARTIN,
Agent appointed by the S.C. Conference to Rebuild the Burnt Church
(Washington Street UMC Archives, accessed November 2, 2020)

On August 17, 1871, Rev. Martin broke ground for the new church building on the footprint of the razed 1832 structure. Through his substantive collection work as well as the support of many South Carolinians and a determined group of trustees, the beautiful Gothic Revival church that we all revere today was dedicated in June of 1875. I recall, in rough paraphrase, the words of one of our long-standing members who was interviewed for our Bicentennial Pageant in 2003: "Each time I enter our beautiful sanctuary, I'm reminded that we worship at Washington Street Church on the backs of hundreds of faithful Methodists who've supported this church in the past as we do today." Indeed.

Rev. Martin's family members were special in unique ways. His wife, Margaret, a native of Scotland, worked as a governess and teacher following her marriage to William. She was a good writer and poet and, in fact, wrote an inspirational poem on the occasion of our current church dedication in 1875.



An older son, William Maxwell Martin, was a Wofford graduate who had taught school and later began the study of law. He, too, was a published poet whose creativity was acknowledged. During the first call for volunteers, he joined the Columbia Artillery and left for Confederate service on Sullivan's Island. There he contracted typhoid fever, returned to Columbia, and died on February 21, 1861, a little more than two months after the firing on Ft. Sumter. He was buried in the Washington Street Church cemetery beneath

a symbolic broken column with the inscription, "The First to Die for Southern Independence."

The Martin family member who left perhaps the quirkiest and most memorable impression at the church and in Columbia was the daughter Isabella. This strong-willed woman filled several committee leadership roles at Washington Street Church, served as president of the Woman's Missionary Society for thirty-five years, assisted in opening a high school for girls, taught in both the Presbyterian Female College and Columbia

College, and was co-editor in 1905 for Mary Boykin Chesnut's first version of her *Diary from Dixie*. She was referred to, probably in truth, as the "irrepressible Isabella" by Mary Chesnut. One with a strong interest in the personalities of Washington Street Church would do well to read more widely into the many contributions of Isabella Martin as well as her several humorous encounters.

The theme of racial justice common to this series should focus on Rev. Martin's involvement with black citizens as well as other of his Civil War experiences. Always popular with black members of our church, Martin devoted much energy to assisting the black refugees who migrated to Columbia during the war, becoming, with Bishop Early's appointment in 1862, superintendent of the Mission to the Colored People in Columbia. Martin himself once wrote, "Although scattered and confused [the blacks], having no place to worship, yet we held together . . . the larger portion of the colored people still held to me, and through me to the Church" (*S.C. Conference Journal*, 1894, pp. 44-47). And although Northern Methodists established worship sites in Columbia for freed slaves, Martin indicated that "they still looked to me for the Sacraments, which service I performed until they could get ordained ministers of their own" (*Advocate*, March 18, 1882). The Northern residents were surprised at this obvious feeling of faith and dependence on the part of the blacks.

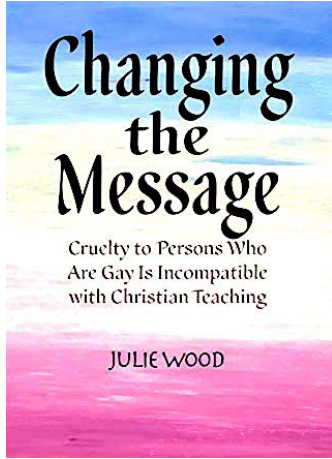
Rev. Martin's concern for the recently freed blacks was apparent, but he was also a man of his time and culture. As the South's fortunes continued to ebb in late 1864, President Jefferson Davis visited Columbia and addressed the citizens from the front steps of the Chesnut cottage on Plain Street. Mary Chesnut's diary entry indicated that Rev. Martin "held his hands over Mr. Davis's head and blessed him with all his heart" (*Diary*, p. 438). As I've suggested in previous racial justice pieces in *The Connection*, the "peculiar institution" of slavery created ironic circumstances that commingled cruelty with compassion, dominion with freedom.

Washington Street Church has found itself over the years in almost a paradox of faith and doubt regarding racial justice. No miracle of conflict resolution has presented itself as the good people of our church have struggled to hear the "still, sad music of humanity."

Sources

- Advocate*, March 18, 1882.
- Diary*, p. 438.
- Huff, A.V., *Tried by Fire*. Columbia, SC: The R.L. Bryan Company, 1975.
- WSUMC Archives (William Martin File), accessed November 2, 2020.

Be A Part of the Reconciling Next Book Study!



Julie Wood's newly published book, *Changing the Message: Cruelty to Persons Who Are Gay Is Incompatible with Christian Teaching*, shares their family's heart-breaking journey of navigating the loss of their son, Ben Wood, who died from suicide after experiencing the catastrophic impact of bad interpretation of theology and rigid misapplication of principles of faith regarding his sexual identity. Join the Reconciling Next Team for a lunchtime discussion of the book on Monday, November 23 from noon-1 pm. Please email Jim Lane at jlane132@gmail.com to be included on the Zoom invitation.

Bryan Recognized for Success of Seeds of Hope

In 1988, after a severe drought Donna Bryan, long-time WSUMC member decided to tackle the issue facing local farmers as they faced losing everything and falling on very hard times. After doing her research into the Department of Agriculture, Bryan found that there was a good bit of racial disparity on the help that was available for the black farmers in South Carolina versus the white farmers and decided to focus her mission on those individuals. Seeds of Hope initially started its life at Washington Street. It is now run by Shandon UMC.

It took time to gain trust and respect of the local black farmers, but in time, the program grew in participation with more and more local black farmers becoming involved. This farmer's market approach supports the community, including WIC recipients and seniors who may not be able to have accessibility to fresh vegetables while giving local black farmers the opportunity to make cash to support their farms in exchange for excellent produce.

Donna Bryan was honored by Shandon Methodist Church for her efforts and her success with this important community outreach.

This year the Seeds of Hope farmer's market outreach made more than \$17,000 across 15 Saturdays. The *South Carolina United Methodist Advocate* reported that plans for 2021 have been set for the program to crank back up in June, running each Saturday from 8:00 to 11:00 am.



Seeds of Hope participants from 2019. Donna Bryan is the fifth person on from the left. Photo courtesy of South Carolina United Methodist Advocate

Prayer List

Betty Bowers	Karen Horne
Martha Brooker	Geneva Hutchinson
Jimmy Dawkins	Lisa Johnson
Mickey Epting	Rev. Judy King
Nancy Epting	Beverly McClanahan
Linda Fesperman	Angela Powers
Don Fowler	Rick Rowe
Charles Garren	Nan Self
Frances Grimes	Our homebound
Bud Harrelson	

WSUMC Outdoor Services Continue!

As we continue to navigate COVID19, Washington Street is grateful to be able to have the ability to worship together outdoors. The first four originally planned services have been completed and continue to grow in popularity. These services have proved to be manageable as socially distanced



Terence Goodwin, WSUMC Director of Children & Family Ministries performs for the congregation on November 15.

events and thanks to everyone who continues to wear masks and follow health protocols, three more outdoor services have been planned. Each one will take place in the parking lot of the church:

December 6 @ 4:00 pm

December 20 @ 4:00 pm -- A special Carol Sing event with Queen's Mobile Cafe on hand for beverage and snack purchases.

December 24 -- Christmas Eve Services with Communion; Noon and 4:00 pm

We invite you to bring a chair, blanket and jacket for colder weather and join us!



Joe Epting on being Thankful during the Nov. 15th Laity Service.



WASHINGTON STREET
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, December 6

4:00 pm

WSUMC Parking Lot

Preregister online!

Social Distancing Practiced • Masks required

Zoom Advent Studies

As we enter Advent Season still facing COVID-19 restrictions, WSUMC is offering five Advent Studies through Zoom to help us celebrate Advent together.

Sunday Morning Options

1. A discussion of Walter Brueggeman's book, *Names of the Messiah*, will be led by Alston Lippert with her Sunday School class. Currently, this group includes Young Adult, John Harper, and Paul Harmon classes. To participate in this study, contact Alston Lippert at alflippert@umcsc.org.
2. The Grace Class will be discussing Brueggeman's book. To join this study, email Jim Lane at jlane@columbiasc.edu for a link to join in.
3. To join in a Zoom discussion of Adam Hamilton's book *The Journey — Walking the Road to Bethlehem* with Ann Jessup in the Open Door Class, email her at jessup.ann@gmail.com.
4. To join in a discussion of the book *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas* by Adam Hamilton with Sylvia Stevens and member of the Joy Class, email her at sylviasaunderstevens@gmail.com.
5. **Evening Option:** Ann Jessup and Susan Caskey will co-lead a discussion of the Advent book, *The Gift of the Nutcracker* by Matt Rawle on Wednesday evenings, December 2, 9 and 16 from 7:00-8:30 pm. Email Ann at jessup.ann@gmail.com to join



ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

• **The Dawsey Class** is continuing our study of *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism* by Robin DiAngelo. On Nov. 22, Janelle Rivers will lead the discussion on Chapter 9—"White Fragility in Action." On Nov. 29, Mary Slade will lead the discussion on Chapter 10—"White Fragility and the Rules." We will meet by FreeConferenceCall.com. Class members should call in before 9:30 a.m., but not before 9:15 a.m. The call-in number is (425) 436-6321. The access code is 326159#.

• **The Grace Class:** Melanie Dobson will continue to lead classes on Nov. 22 on the topic of Christian Mysticism. We will begin the Advent study of Walter Brueggeman's book, *Names of the Messiah* on Nov. 29. The class will meet on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am via Zoom. All are welcome, and if interested in joining us contact Jim Lane at jlane@columbiasc.edu for the link.

• **The Joy Class** will be studying the following series for Advent, starting Nov 29—*Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas* by Adam Hamilton. "His parents gave him the name Jesus. But the prophets, the shepherds, the wise men, and the angels addressed him by other names. They called him Lord, Messiah, Savior, Emmanuel, Light of the World, and Word Made Flesh. In *Incarnation*, best selling author Adam Hamilton explores the meaning of these titles and what they tell us about the child whose birth we celebrate at Christmas." If you would like to join us, please contact Lee Haynes at lelandhaynesjr@gmail.com or Sylvia Stevens at sylviasaunderstevens@gmail.com for an invitation.

• **Open Door Class** On Sunday Nov. 22 the Open Door Class will begin *The Journey - Walking the Road to Bethlehem* by Adam Hamilton. This five-part study will continue through December 20. All are welcome to join. For Zoom dial-in information, please reach out to Ann Jessup at jessup.ann@gmail.com.

• **YASS, John Harper, and Paul Harmon Class** will be finishing our discussion of Judaism led by Carl Evans this Sunday. Starting on Sunday, Nov. 29, the class will begin a Zoom discussion of Walter Brueggeman's book, *Names of the Messiah*. All are welcome. For information or to get a Zoom invitation, email Reverend Alston alflippert@umcsc.org.

WSUMC Youth Class meets on Zoom with Mackin Wall at 9:45 am on Sunday mornings. On Nov. 22 the topic is Thankfulness, and on Nov. 29 it is Forgiveness. To participate, please email Mackin Wall at mackin@wsmethodist.org.

Gifts



IN HONOR OF MS FERRIE WARD
to the Soup Cellar

Given by Windsor UMC-Outreach

IN MEMORY OF LINDA BOWERS
to the Good Samaritan Fund

Given by Zoom Class members from
YASS, John Harper & Paul Harmon
Sunday School Classes



\$10 each

Register & purchase
online through
Engage or mail
a check
c/o Advent Wreath
WSUMC
1401 Washington St.
Columbia, SC
29201

Or email
Mary Lide
neaudl@aol.com

**Sunday, November 29
3:00-5:00 pm**

WSUMC Parking Lot

**Pick up your supplies
or make on-site!**

Advent Wreaths

It's not our traditional Advent Festival but we will celebrate the coming of Advent by making wreaths. Sunday, November 29 at 3:00 you will be able to make an Advent wreath for your home. We will be making the wreaths in the church parking lot. You may pick up your supplies that afternoon to make your wreath at home instead. There is a ten dollar(\$10) charge for wreath supplies.

Fresh greenery may be left in the designated spot in the church parking lot.

This year we are making wreaths for some members who are not able to attend. If you attend on November 29, please help make one of these

wreaths. Also, we will be making an Advent decoration to be mailed to homebound members.

Reserve your wreath supplies online at wsmethodist.org/giving, or by sending a check to WSUMC wreath supplies. Deadline for reservations is November 28. Contact Mary Lide at neaudl@aol.com, if you have questions.

Children's Christmas Tree

Yes, we will make photo ornaments for Washington Street children, nursery thru sixth grade. **Pictures will be taken at the parking lot service on December 6.** You may email photos to Mary Lide if you do not attend the service. Your finished ornament will be mailed to you.

Transgender Day of Remembrance

Transgender Day of Remembrance falls on November 20 annually. The annual number of murders of transgender individuals in the US is typically in the mid-twenties. This year, from Oct 1, 2019, to Sept 30, 2020, that number was over 40. Please remember those affected in your prayers.

WSUMC's Reconciling Next Team has placed 41 ribbons on the fence on Bull Street representing the 41 trans persons murdered from Oct 1, 2019 – Sept 30, 2020. The ribbons are light blue, light pink, and white to represent the colors in the trans flag.





[youtube.com/washingtonstreetumc](https://www.youtube.com/washingtonstreetumc)
View our online services 24/7
and catch up on any Outdoor Services
you may have missed!



Happy Thanksgiving!
The Pastors and Staff from WSUMC wish you a
blessed Thanksgiving!

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES!

To schedule any meeting (even if using personal Zoom or other accounts), please contact Abbie (abbie@wsmethodist.org) to put your meeting on the Church Calendar!

Thursday, Nov. 19
Reconciling Ministries
4:00-5:00 pm
Contact Jim Lane
jlane32@gmail.com

Tuesday, Dec. 1
Church Chat
10:00-11:00 am
Contact Mary Lide
neaudl@aol.com

Small Group -- Trouble I've Seen
7:00-8:00 pm
Contact Alston Lippert
aflippert@umcsc.edu

Thursday, Dec. 3
Church Chat
10:00-11:00 am
Contact Mary Lide
neaudl@aol.com

Monday, Nov. 23
Reconciling Ministries Book Discussion
Noon to 1:15 pm
Contact Jim Lane
jlane32@gmail.com

Reconciling Next ANGELS Happy Hour
5:30 pm
Contact Jim Lane
jlane32@gmail.com

Church Chat
2:00-3:00 pm
Contact Mary Lide
neaudl@aol.com

Sunday, Dec. 6
Outdoor Worship Series
4:00-5:00 pm
Preregister @ wsmethodist.org
PHOTOS WILL BE TAKEN OF CHILDREN FOR CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENTS
Contact Mary Lide
neaudl@aol.com

Thursday-Friday, Nov. 26-27
THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
All areas closed

Sunday, November 29
Advent Wreath Making Day
3:00 pm | Parking Lot
Contact Mary Lide
neaudl@aol.com

Tuesday, Dec. 8
Charles Pfeiffer Circle #5
7:00-8:00 pm
Contact Mary Lide
neaudl@aol.com

Monday, Nov. 30
Racial Justice Action Team
5:30-6:30 pm
Contact Nancy Whittle
ncwhittle@aol.com

Christmas with Epworth

With your support, WSUMC can continue to make Christmas special for the children of Epworth. This year, you can sign up online to select a gift to purchase for a deserving child!

Thank you for your spirit of giving as you are providing for children who are so appreciative of your generosity.

Visit [wsmethodist.org/christmas-with-epworth/](https://www.wsmethodist.org/christmas-with-epworth/)

December Birthdays

December 1

Donnie Fowler
Charlie Peterson

December 2

John Edwards
Ann Middleton
Sloan Ware

December 4

Karen Scurry

December 5

Cole Gaston
Melissa Ostmeyer
Sarah Threatt

December 6

Eli Latham
Graham Latham
Kaitlyn Rutter

December 7

Tatiana Adams
Carlton Andrews
William Bonney
Hudson Harper
Janet Keith
Meredith Miramonti
Justin Workman

December 8

Thorne Barrett

December 9

Glenn Hepfer
Kelly Steinhilper
Lisa Voegeli

December 10

Bessie Bagwell
Rachel Saunders

December 11

David Anderson
Mary Grattan
Barbara Rose

December 12

Laura Matthews
Chip Williams

December 13

Joseph Clark, Jr.
Ann Jessup
Lauren Presley

December 14

Blake Burnside
Maureen Devenger
Susan Hefelfinger
Charlotte Murphy
Mark Singleton
Laura Windham

December 15

April Lucas-Stucker

December 16

Jim Apple
Licia Jackson
William Torres
Sarah Waldrop

December 17

Grant N. Jackson
Dan Tran
Mark Ward

December 18

Pattie Beerman
Erin Frazee

December 19

Kay Ayers-Garren
Susan Baldwin
Jessica Marze
Ellie Person
Marshall Robinson
Spencer Stevens
Clyde Tague

December 20

Jordan Brown

December 21

Martha Brim
Craig Buffkin
Diane Post

December 22

Helen Matthews

Sally Mings
Jason Strickland

December 23

Matt Rozier

December 24

Sean Foley

December 25

Mike Conte
Katherine Epting
Donna Moore

December 26

Ricky Rowe

December 27

Joey Davis
Steve Eaddy

December 28

Joy Hawk DeGraaf

December 29

Margaret Finch
Amelia Hendricks
Linda Mobley

December 30

Joe Hopkins
Carol Krasowski
Andrew Pender

December 31

Janet Cotter

WSUMC Online Attendance

as of 11/18/20

YOUTUBE SERVICES (LAST RPT.)

Oct. 25: 110 (103)
Nov. 1: 109 (102)
Nov. 8: 92
Nov. 15: 81

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS (LAST RPT.)

Oct. 25 with Susan Caskey: 21 (20)
Nov. 1 with the Waunds: 29 (26)
Nov. 8 with Beth Matthews: 21
Nov. 15 with Ann Jessup: 17

OUTDOOR SERVICES

Sunday, Oct. 18: 16; Sunday, Nov. 1: 46; Sunday, Nov. 15: 32

Income from 11/4 to 11/18

Church \$17,359.67 Soup Cellar \$465

SIGNS AND MASKS FOR SALE!

SHOW YOUR LOVE!



\$5 ea.

\$10 ea.

PURCHASE ONLINE @ WSMETHODIST.ORG/GIVING

Contact Jane to arrange pickup—jane@wsmethodist.org